

Dr. Robin Kramer

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Date of Birth: 27 December, 1981

Academic Direction

After specialising in the social and developmental aspects of psychology at an undergraduate level, I explored various interrelated fields during my year in America. I enjoyed focusing on the links between the artificial systems of robotics and AI, and my previous experience with human psychology, leading me to pursue my master's in a far more interdisciplinary course. After completing my dissertation, I returned to psychology as both a laboratory manager and research assistant within the field of perception and cognition in the US. I then returned to the UK as a research assistant within psychology, in particular looking at affect and social interaction. Currently, I am pursuing my PhD within the field of evolutionary psychology, focusing specifically on the signalling of information.

Education

2008- 2012 ***Ph.D. in Psychology; Bangor University, Wales***

Thesis: Facial signals of personality in humans and chimpanzees
Supervisor: Prof. Robert Ward
Teaching Assistant: Research Foundations
Research Skills in Psychology
Evolutionary Psychology
Evolution and Human Behaviour

2004-2005 ***M.Sc. with Distinction in Evolutionary and Adaptive Systems; University of Sussex, England***

Dissertation: Three-Dimensional Ant Nest Excavation Using Stigmergic Rules
Supervisor: Dr. Emmet Spier

2003-2004 ***International Exchange Programme; Washington and Lee University, Virginia, USA***

Cumulative Credits: 33.0
Cumulative GPA: 3.748

2000-2003 ***B.A. (Hons) Upper Second Class in Experimental Psychology; University College, University of Oxford, England***

[awarded M.A. (Oxon) in 2007]

Research Project: Generalisation Of Mere Exposure Effects From Three-Quarter View And Profile Faces
Supervisor: Dr. Brian Parkinson

Experience

2011-present ***Research Officer in the School of Psychology; Bangor University, Wales***

Employer: Prof. Robert Ward

2007-2008 **Research Assistant in the Affect and Social Interaction Laboratory, School of Psychology; Bangor University, Wales**

Employer: Dr. Erin Heerey

2005-2007 **Laboratory Manager and Research Associate in the Percepts and Concepts Laboratory, Department of Psychology; Indiana University - Bloomington, Indiana, USA**

Employer: Dr. Robert Goldstone

Publications

- Jones, A., **Kramer, R. S. S.**, & Ward, R. (in press). Signals of personality and health: The contributions of facial shape, skin texture and viewing angle. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*.
- Kramer, R. S. S.**, & Ward, R. (2011). Different signals of personality and health from the two sides of the face. *Perception*, 40, 549-562.
- Kramer, R. S. S.**, King, J., & Ward, R. (2011). Identifying personality from the static, nonexpressive face in humans and chimpanzees: evidence of a shared system for signaling personality. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 32, 179-185.
- Kramer, R. S. S.**, & Ward, R. (2010). Internal facial features are signals of personality and health. *The Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 63, 2273-2287.
- Kramer, R.**, & Ward, R. (2010). Looking healthy may win you elections. *PsyPAG Quarterly*, 75, 12-16.
- Kramer, R. S. S.**, Arend, I., & Ward, R. (2010). Perceived health from biological motion predicts voting behaviour. *The Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*, 63, 625-632.
- Kramer, R. S.** (2008). Three-dimensional ant nest excavation using stigmergic rules. In B. Hardy-Vallée & N. Payette (Eds.), *Beyond the Brain: Embodied, Situated and Distributed Cognition* (pp. 141-157). Newcastle, U.K.: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- Kramer, R. S. S.**, & Parkinson, B. (2005). Generalization of mere exposure to faces viewed from different horizontal angles. *Social Cognition*, 23, 125-136.

Presentations

- Kramer, R. S. S.** (2011, November). *Facial signals of personality in humans and chimpanzees*. Invited speaker at the School of Psychology, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, England.
- Kramer, R. S. S.** (2011, July). Signals of personality from human and chimpanzee faces: A shared system across species. In **R. S. S. Kramer** (Chair), *Evolutionary Psychology*. Symposium conducted at the 26th Annual Psychology Postgraduate Affairs Group Conference, Bangor, Wales.
- Kramer, R. S. S.**, King, J., & Ward, R. (2011, June). *Identifying personality from the faces of humans and chimpanzees: Evidence for a shared signalling system*. Poster session presented at the Human Behavior & Evolution Society Conference, Montpellier, France.
- Kramer, R. S. S.**, King, J., & Ward, R. (2011, April). *Identifying personality from the faces of humans and chimpanzees: Evidence for a shared signalling system*. Poster session presented at the Primate Society of Great Britain Spring Meeting, Liverpool, England.
- Kramer, R. S. S.**, King, J., & Ward, R. (2011, March). *Signals of personality from the faces of humans and chimpanzees: Evidence for a shared signalling system*. Poster session presented at the European Human Behaviour & Evolution Association Conference, Giessen, Germany.
- Kramer, R. S. S.**, & Ward, R. (2011, January). *Different signals of personality and health from the two sides of the face*. Poster session presented at the 4th Biennial Wales Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience Conference, Deganwy, Wales.

- Kramer, R. S. S.** (2010, November). *Signals of personality from the faces of humans and chimpanzees*. Invited speaker at the School of Psychology, Keele University, Keele, England.
- Kramer, R. S. S.** (2010, July). *Personality and health from the two sides of the face*. Paper presented at the 25th Annual Psychology Postgraduate Affairs Group Conference, Sheffield, England.
- Kramer, R. S. S., & Ward, R.** (2010, May). *Observer effects on gait: How minimal social contexts change walking and perceptions of walkers*. Poster session presented at the Vision Sciences Society 10th Annual Meeting, Naples, FL.
- Kramer, R. S. S., & Ward, R.** (2010, March). *Signalling personality and health: Accurate perception from both full faces and internal features*. Poster session presented at the European Human Behaviour & Evolution Association Conference, Wroclaw, Poland.
- Kramer, R. S. S.** (2009, July). I see who you are: Health and personality from the face. In **R. S. S. Kramer** (Chair), *Evolutionary Psychology*. Symposium conducted at the 24th Annual Psychology Postgraduate Affairs Group Conference, Cardiff, Wales.
- Kramer, R. S. S.** (2009, June). *The politics of motion: Predicting voting from health signals*. Paper presented at Truth and Lies: An Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Conference, Bangor, Wales.
- Kramer, R. S. S., Arend, I., & Ward, R.** (2009, April). *Perceived health from biological motion predicts voting behaviour*. Poster session presented at the European Human Behaviour & Evolution Association Conference, St. Andrews, Scotland.
- Kramer, R. S. S.** (2006, August). *Three-dimensional ant nest excavation using stigmergic rules*. Paper presented at Cognition 2006 - Beyond the Brain: Embodied, Situated and Distributed Cognition, Montréal, Canada.
- Kramer, R. S. S.** (2006, June). Modeling environment excavation: Subterranean ant nests through stigmergic rules. In P. M. Todd (Chair), *Modeling Environment Construction*. Symposium conducted at Artificial Life X: The Tenth International Conference on the Simulation and Synthesis of Living Systems, Bloomington, IN.

Press Coverage

My research on a shared system for signalling personality in humans and chimpanzees led to widespread coverage, including:

- Radio: Interview on *Science Café* (BBC Wales; 28/6/11)
- Magazine: Bilder der seele. (2011, February 28). *Der Spiegel*, 9, 122.
Bower, B. (2011, February 12). Chimps wear personalities on face. *Science News*, 179(4), 8.
- Internet: Choi, C. Q. (2011, January 25). Sussing out simians: Humans can accurately size up a chimp's personality after viewing its face. *Scientific American*.

My consultancy with 192.com regarding trust and deception during first encounters received extensive print and online coverage, including:

- Magazine: Duffield, L. (2010, December 21). Fair play in the dating game. *Choice*, 40, 60-63.
- Internet: Kumar, R. (2010, September 9). One in five have been ripped off online. *This is Money*.

My research on the perceived health of politicians influencing voting led to numerous online reports, as well as:

- Radio: Interview on *Science Café* (BBC Wales; 25/4/10)
Interview on *The Paul Franks Show* (BBC West Midlands; 15/4/10)
Live interview on *Good Evening Wales* (BBC Wales; 9/3/10)
- Television: Research discussed on *Daily Planet* (Discovery Channel; 10/3/10)
Research discussed on *The Andrew Marr Show* (BBC One; 7/3/10)
- Newspaper: Williamson, D. (2010, March 12). A healthy majority prefer to see politicians on the run. *Western Mail*, p. 7.
Trewyn, H. (2010, March 9). Picture of health could swing poll. *Daily Post*, p. 6.
Parkhouse, S., & Leach, B. (2010, March 7). Voters might not stick with Gordon. *The Sunday Telegraph*, p. 4.

Awards and Prizes

- Student Travel Award to attend the European Human Behaviour & Evolution Association Conference (2011)
- Commendation for presentation at the 25th Annual Psychology Postgraduate Affairs Group Conference (2010)
- Student Travel Award to attend the European Human Behaviour & Evolution Association Conference (2010)
- First prize for best presentation at the 24th Annual Psychology Postgraduate Affairs Group Conference (2009)

First prize for best presentation at Truth and Lies: An Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Conference (2009)
School Studentship to attend Bangor University (2008-2011)
EPSRC Studentship to attend the University of Sussex (2004-2005)
Dean's List at Washington and Lee University (2003-2004)
Scholarship (full fee waiver) to attend Washington and Lee University (2003-2004)
Exhibition for academic achievement at University College, University of Oxford (2002-2003)

Professional Activities

Organising committee vice chair for the 2011 PsyPAG Annual Conference (2010-present)
Bangor University postgraduate ambassador (2010-present)
Paid consultant for 192.com (Summer 2010)
Bangor University psychology postgraduate colloquia organiser (2010-2011)
Psychology Postgraduate Affairs Group (PsyPAG) Psychobiology Section representative (2009-present)

Skills

MATLAB programming environment and Psychophysics Toolbox extension
Vicon Nexus motion capture software
SPSS statistical analysis software
Facial image manipulation software (PsychoMorph, Abrosoft FaceMixer, FaceGen Modeller)

Other Interests

I enjoy drawing and oil painting in my spare time, as well as reading and photography. In addition, I continue to improve my skills with both computer programming in general, and website design in particular. I am also a keen sportsman, having previously played both hockey and ice hockey, rowed and coxed, and played badminton, all at competitive level. In recent years, I have begun to learn numerous martial arts, including karate, modern arnis, tae kwon do and wing chun, in addition to playing basketball, netball and football socially.